THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Till date law has not permitted euthanasia and application for the same cannot be entertained.

New mining policy

631. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a new mining policy aimed at attracting domestic and foreign investment to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh crore;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry is in touch with the Planning Commission to prepare the inputs for the new policy;

(c) if so, by when the new policy is likely to be framed and announced; and

(d) the main feature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission has forwarded a report of the High Level Committee set up to consider review of the National Mineral Policy and recommend possible amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to give a fillip to private investment in the sector. The Report has been received on 20.7.2006 and is under consideration.

Mining of iron-ore in Surajgarh

†632. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applications have been received for mining of iron-ore deposits in Surajgarh near Garhchiroli- Chandrapur district of Maharashtra;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a new policy is being formulated with regard to mining; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) One proposal has been received from State Government of Maharashtra on which prior approval of the Central Government has been conveyed on 01.06.2006.

(c) and (d) The High Level Committee constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Anwar-ul-Hoda, Member, Planning Commission to, *inter-alia*, review the National Mineral Policy, 1993, has submitted its report on 20.07.2006.

Expansion of mining activities

633. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to expand the mining activities throughout the country, since mining sector played an important role in the economy;

(b) if so, the States involved in the expansion programme; and

(c) by when the expansion activities of mines are expected to take off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to encourage greater investment in exploration and exploitation of minerals involving all the mineral bearing States in the country.

(c) Mining activities for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals in the country are open to Indian Nationals and companies as defined in Sub-section (1) of Section 3 of Companies Act, 1957. Expansion in the mining activities, is therefore linked to the demand in the market for minerals.